

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 240740Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7924
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3325

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAU, PBOR, PORG, ET, NI, SO
SUBJECT: OAU SUMMIT: ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA GOOD OFFICES RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 3245 (B) KHARTOUM 3293 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BY REAFFIRMING OAU PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY, RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND INVIOABILITY OF
EXISTING FRONTIERS, OAU ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA GOOD OFFICES COM-
MITTEE HAS ONE AGAIN SUPPORTED ETHIOPIA'S POSITION OGADEN.
IN SO DOING, OAU HAS REJECTED SOMALI ARGUMENT THAT WESTERN
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SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT (WSLF) IS LEGITIMATE LIBERATION
MOVEMENT AND THAT ETHIOPIA IS BLACK COLONIZER. GOOD OFFICES
REPORT ALLUDED TO "OMINOUS TREND TO INTERNATIONALIZE
PURELY INTRA-AFRICAN CONFLICTS" AND CITED WESTERN POWERS'
EFFORTS TO TAKE CONFLICT TO UN OR EVEN NON-ALIGNED (NAM)
CONFERENCE. REPORT CONCLUDES BY APPEALING TO BOTH SIDES
TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT AND END ALL MILITARY AND

HOSTILE ACTIVITIES, TO REFRAIN FROM USE OF FORCE, FOR OAU
TO RENDER PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND FOR MEDIATION
EFFORTS TO CONTINUE. END SUMMARY

1. NIGERIAN PRES. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, AS CHAIRMAN, PRESENTED
GOOD OFFICES REPORT TO SUMMIT JULY 21. REPORT NOTED LITTLE
PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE SINCE LIBREVILLE REAFFIRMATION OF
OAU PRINCIPLES. IT CONTINUED HOWEVER THAT, "ONE MAJOR
ASSIGNMENT WHICH I FULFILLED IN COURSE OF MY STATE VISIT
TO U.S., WAS TO SEEK AND OBTAIN AN UNDERTAKING FROM PRES.
CARTER THAT U.S. WOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY INVOLVEMENT IN
OGADEN WAR, AND GIVE AFRICA CHANCE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM AS
ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I SENT SIMILAR SPECIAL ENVOY TO
SOVIET UNION."

2. OBASANJO THEN PAID TRIBUTE TO STATESMANSHIP OF ETHIOPIA
AND SOMALIA WHICH RESULTED IN WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALIAN TROOPS
FROM OGADEN AND DRASTICALLY DE-ESCALATED THE CRISIS. HOW-
EVER, WAR HAS NOT RESOLVED THE DISPUTE. IF ANYTHING, IT
HAS INTRODUCED DANGEROUS DIMENSIONS TO THE DISPUTE, READS
THE REPORT. IT HAS SHOWN THAT "MORE WE (AFRICANS) DEPEND
ON FOREIGN ARMS SUPPLIERS, THE MORE WE MORTGAGE OUR RIGHT
TO RESOLVE OUR DISPUTES BY OURSELVES."

3. COMMISSION SUBMITTED FOLLOWING PROPOSALS (WHICH WERE
ADOPTED BY SUMMIT): BEGIN TEXT
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(A) TO RESTATE THAT AN INDISPENSABLE CONDITION FOR THE
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES CAN BEST BE
MET BY THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF RESPECT
FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES, THE
INVIOABILITY OF EXISTING FRONTIERS BETWEEN OAU MEMBER
STATES, NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
MEMBER STATES AS WELL AS THE SETTLEMENT OF ALL DISPUTES
AMONG THEM BY PEACEFUL MEANS;

(B) TO APPEAL TO BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA TO EXERCISE
MAXIMUM RESTRAINT, TO WORK EARNESTLY TO END ALL MILITARY
AND HOSTILE ACTIVITIES AGAINST EACH OTHER AND TO REFRAIN
FROM THE USE OF FORCE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN
THEM;

(C) TO REQUEST THE OAU TO RENDER PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE
REFUGEES AND TO ASSIST IN EFFECTING THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS
OF WAR; AND

(D) TO CONTINUE MEDIATION EFFORTS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A
JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE. END TEXT
OBASANJO FURTHER CALLED ON TWO STATES TO DESIST FROM USING
MASS MEDIA TO FAN FEELINGS OF HOSTILITY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER.

4. OBASANJO ASSERTED IN REPORT THAT IT TOOK CONSIDERABLE

EFFORT TO PERSUADE WESTERN POWERS NOT TO TAKE CONFLICT TO UN OR NAM. COMMITTEE REPEATED ONCE AGAIN THAT AFRICA WOULD PREFER TO SOLVE HER OWN PROBLEMS BY HER OWN MEANS AND IN HER OWN WAY.

5. DURING GENERAL SPEECHES OF SUMMIT KENYAN VICE-PRES. MOI VOICED KENYA'S SUPPORT FOR THOSE OAU PRINCIPLES WHICH BOLSTER ETHIOPIA'S CASE, SPECIFICALLY RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY OF MEMBER NATIONS, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES AND RESPECT FOR BOUNDARIES AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE. MOI ADDED THAT PERSISTENCE OF SOME MEMBERS' TERRITORIAL CLAIMS BASED ON ARCHAIC AND OUTMODED CONCEPTS OF TRIBALISM, ETC. IS SOURCE OF UNNECESSARY TENSION AND CONFLICT WHICH AFRICA CANNOT AFFORD.
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6. COMMENT: THERE APPEARED TO BE VERY LITTLE SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA'S POSITION ON THE WSLF AND OGADEN DURING THE OAU MEETINGS. HOWEVER IT DOES NOT SEEM AS IF SOMALIA IS WILLING TO CEASE ITS SUPPORT FOR WSLF "RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION" IN OGADEN OR REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH ETHIOPIA. PEACE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA APPEARS AS DISTANT AS EVER.
BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE,

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NNN

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